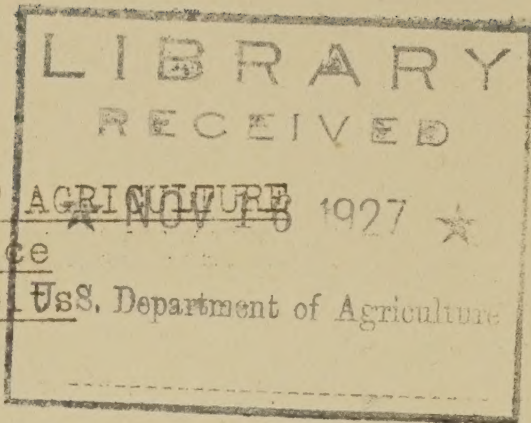


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits

U.S. Department of Agriculture

A Summary of the Exhibit

WHAT IS THE CHEAPEST FEED? - PASTURE

An exhibit showing best methods of grazing  
and the value of pasture in fattening cattle.

Specifications.

Floor space - width	- - - - -	11 feet
depth	- - - - -	8 feet.
Wall space	- - - - -	None
Shipping weight	- - - - -	925 lbs.
Electrical requirements	- - - - -	None.



## WHAT IS THE CHEAPEST FEED? - PASTURE

### How It Looks.

The bottom of this exhibit represents portions of two pastures. The imitation grass on the left side is tender and succulent as the result of proper pasture practice while the tough, dry grass on the right shows the result of improper pasture practices.

A life size, carefully made and painted steer cutout near the back of the exhibit has been fattened largely on grass and the important details of fattening cattle on grass and winter feed, etc., is given by the text on the panels forming the back of the exhibit. John J. Ingall's tribute to grass is given on a placard and on another placard are given suggestions as to the best kind of pasture plants for the Northern and the Southern States.

### What It Tells.

The fact that "Pasture" is the answer to the question contained in the title of this exhibit can be shown in a number of ways. For example, production costs show that the average feed unit, of pastures of all kinds, costs only one-sixth as much as that of harvested feed. When costs of grains of farm animals, which are summered on pasture and wintered in the feed lot, are figured, a proportionate advantage in favor of pasture is found. An experiment in steer feeding in West Virginia illustrates this.



An average of 90 head of steers, purchased on the range at weaning time were carried three winters on cottonseed meal and silage and three summers on bluegrass pasture by the West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station and the Department. A comparison of the relative economy of summer and winter gains shows that each pound of grain in the feedlot cost 24 cents, while each pound of pasture gain cost less than 5 cents.

In view of the importance of an abundance of succulent pasturage in livestock production, farmers are finding that it pays to give their pastures careful attention throughout the year. Most permanent pastures are grazed only half as much as they should be for best results. Light pasturing allows weeds and other undesirable vegetation a favorable advantage over bluegrass and other pasture grasses. When bluegrass is shaded by weeds it does not grow well; when it is allowed to mature it assumes a dormant stage and is not readily eaten by livestock. Experiments have shown that close or heavy pasturing gives twice the gains in growing animals as does the light pasturing practiced on many farms. As a rule, therefore, the practice of maintaining reserve pastures is not advisable as the animals much prefer young grass.

Bluegrass and white clover are the two great pasture plants of the Northern States; Bermuda, carpet grass and lespedeza do best in the South.

Pastures for fattening livestock should consist of legumes or of annual grasses.



By way of graphically emphasizing the contrasting results obtained by the right and wrong methods of pasturing, two plots of grass are represented in the foreground of this exhibit. In one, close pasturing has kept the grasses tame. In the other, lack of sufficient grazing has let them grow up "wild."

#### Where To Get Information.

For further information write to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.